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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,604	06/13/2001	Yoshihiro Ishizaki	U013417-6	7019
7590 Ladas & Parry 26 West 61st Street New York, NY 10023			EXAMINER PATEL, NIHIR B	
			ART UNIT 3743	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/880,604

Applicant(s)

ISHIZAKI, YOSHIHIRO

Examiner

Nihir Patel

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-11, and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on July 18th, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that the inventions by Spocoyny '842 and Sellin '627 are both relative to heat exchanger for cooling hot gasses of burners, which are far different from a heat exchanger for cryogenic cooling (now claimed as temperatures of 2K to 160K). it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

The intended use statements are not given any patentable weight in this instance for example, "for a fluid in a temperature range from 2K to 160K".

The applicant argues that Sellin does not show granules that are bonded not touching each other to avoid conduction and pulverizing loses. The examiner disagrees. Sellin clearly shows that the granules are bonded not touching each other to avoid conduction and pulverizing loses (see figure 5).

Since the applicant has not pointed out the criticality of granules size, it is simply a matter of design choice. Referring to page 4 paragraph 2, the applicant clearly states that the granules packed in the prior art regenerator have a mean particle size ranging from from 40 to 800 micrometers. Further, the examiner request the applicant to submit prior art that comprises regenerator comprising granules having a mean particle size ranging from 40 to 800 micrometers.

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Since the applicant has not pointed out the criticality of having a woven cloth that comprises a thickness from 10 to 100 micrometers, it is simply a matter of design choice.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. There is insufficient antecedent basis for limitations "a refrigerator".

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

The intended use statements are not given any patentable weight in this instance, for example "for a regenerator".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spokoyny et al. US Patent No. 5,323,842 in view of Sellin US Patent No. 3,431,082.

Spokoyny discloses the applicant's invention as claimed with the exception of providing numerous granules that are bonded not in contact with each other along a length and over a predetermined width of the one surface or both surfaces.

Sellin discloses tube furnace provided with filled bodies that does provide numerous granules that are bonded not in contact with each other along a length and over a predetermined width of the one surface or both surfaces. Therefore it would be obvious to modify Spokoyny's invention by providing numerous granules that are bonded not in contact with each other along a length and over a predetermined width of the one surface or both surfaces in make it easier to replace the granules in case it malfunctions during use.

Referring to claim 1, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

The intended use statements are not given any patentable weight in this instance for example "for a fluid in a temperature range from 2K to 160K".

Also referring to claim 1, the applicant states that the granules having a relatively uniform size of 40 to 800 micrometers. The size of the granules is simply a matter of design choice. Further, the examiner request the applicant to submit prior art that comprises regenerator comprising granules having a mean particle size ranging from 40 to 800 micrometers.

Claim 7, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spokoyny et al. US Patent No. 5,323,842 in view of Scarlata US Patent No. 4,355,627.

Referring to claim 5, Spokoyny discloses the applicant's invention as claimed with the exception of stating the type of material used to design the granules.

Referring to claims 7, 8, and 9, Spokoyny discloses the applicant's invention as claimed with the exception of stating that the holding base is designed from a fiber selected from a fiber

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selected from the group consisting of paraaramid fiber, high tenacity polyarylate fiber, PBO fiber, polyethylene fiber, polytetrafluorethylene fiber, polyester fiber, polyamid fiber, natural fiber, and glass fiber, and has so small a mesh that the granules do not pass through.

Scarlata discloses thermal storage system that does state that the holding base is designed from a fiber selected from a fiber selected from the group consisting of paraaramid fiber, high tenacity polyarylate fiber, PBO fiber, polyethylene fiber, polytetrafluorethylene fiber, polyester fiber, polyamid fiber, natural fiber, and glass fiber, and has so small a mesh that the granules do not pass through (see column 8 lines 1-10). Therefore it would have been obvious to modify Spokoyny's invention by using a fiber selected from a fiber selected from the group consisting of paraaramid fiber, high tenacity polyarylate fiber, PBO fiber, polyethylene fiber, fiber, polyester fiber, polyamid fiber, natural fiber, and glass fiber, and has so small a mesh that the granules do not pass through in order to provide a strong hold on the granules.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spokoyny et al. US Patent No. 5,323,842 in view of admitted prior art in the application (see page 7). The examiner request the applicant to submit prior art that comprises a sheet-type regenerative heat exchanger wherein the granules are made of Pb-Zn alloy.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spokoyny et al. US Patent No. 5,323,842 in view of admitted prior art in the application (see page 2). The examiner request the applicant to submit prior art that comprises a sheet-type regenerative heat exchanger wherein the granules are made of one or more of an alloy, such as Nd, DyNi₂, ER₃Ni, ER₆Ni₂Sn, ErNi_{0.9}Co_{0.1}, Gd₅Al₂, HOCu₂, GdAlO₃, and Nd₂Fe₁₇Al, magnetic oxide, and a magnetic substance.

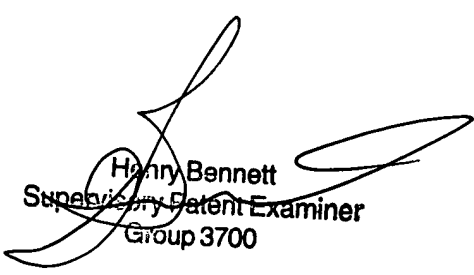
Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Nihir Patel whose telephone number is (703) 306-3463. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful the examiner supervisor Henry Bennett can be reached at (703) 308-0101.

NP
September 30, 2003


Henry Bennett
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700